

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/603,662

Examiner

Thuy Pardo

Applicant(s)

CHILDRRESS, ALLEN B.

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendments filed 1/29/04, 2/5/04, and IDSs filed 10/13/2003, 10/17/03, 2/5/04, 2/9/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-5, 7-24, 29-37, 42-53, 55, 56, 58-66, 71-90, 92-111, 113-138, 140-173, now renumbered 1-150.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 March 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12, 13, 15, and 17
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

THUY N. PARDO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's Request for RCE and IDSs filed on July 26, 2004 and July 28, 2004 has been entered and reviewed.

2. Applicant's IDSs submitted on July 26, 2004 and July 28, 2004 have been carefully considered. However, references cited also fail to teach or suggest individually or in combination the recited limitations that have been allowed in the previous action.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 3-5, 29-37, 42-48, 53, 55, 56, 58-66, 71-90, 92-111, 113-138, 140-173 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination **numbering the one or more words in the portion of the document from N down to 1, wherein N is the total word count of the portion of the document; wherein said determining the word position of the occurrence comprises determining the word number of a first**

Art Unit: 2165

word of the term in the one or more words in the portion of the document; and wherein said determining the relevance value for the occurrence comprises dividing the word position by the total word count to produce the relevance value for the occurrence as set forth in independent claims 1, 53, 71, 77, 121, 126, 158, 163 determining the relevance value for the occurrence comprises dividing the word position by the total word count to produce a positional relevance value for the occurrence; dividing a number of words in the term by the total word count of the portion to produce a percentage relevance value for the occurrence; and combining the positional relevance value and the percentage relevance value to produce the relevance value for the occurrence as set forth in independent claims 10, 16, 29, 44, 61, 63, 83, 103, 131, 168, and determining a text section relevance value of an occurrence of a term using N and X, wherein the text section comprises N words, wherein the occurrence of the term is at an Xth word in the text section, and wherein the text section relevance value is higher the closer the occurrence is to the beginning of the text section and storing the determined relevance value for the occurrence in an entry in a table in the help database as set forth in independent claims 89, 95, 109, 115, 138, and 144.

Dependent claims 3-5, 7-9, 11-15, 17-24, 30-37, 42, 43, 45-48, 55, 56, 58-60, 62, 64-66, 71-76, 78-82, 84-88, 90, 92-94, 96-102, 104-108, 110, 111, , 113, 114, 116-120, 122-125, 127-130, 132-137, 140-143, 145-157, 159-162, 164-167, and 169-173 being further limiting to the independent claims 1, 10, 16, 29, 44, 53, 61, 63, 71, 77, 83, 89, 95, 103, 109, 115, 121, 126, 131, 138, 144, 158, 163, and 168 respectively, definite and enable by the Specification are also allowed.

Art Unit: 2165

The closest prior art, Pant et al. US Patent No. 6,012,053 teaches a mechanism through which results from a search query are ranked according to user-specified relevance factors to allow to user to control how the search results are presented, e.g., their order. The closest prior art fails to anticipate or render Applicant's limitations above obvious.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy Pardo, whose telephone number is 571-272-4082. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at 571-272-4083. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned as follows:

(703) 872-9306 (Official Communication)

and/or:

571-273-4082 (*Use this Fax#, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "Draft" communication. Examiner may request that a formal/amendment be faxed directly to then on occasions*).

Art Unit: 2165

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

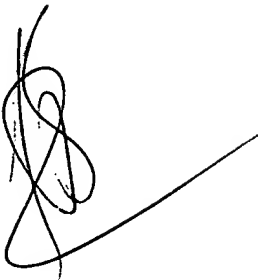
Or:

(703) 308-5359, (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

March 15, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**THUY N. PARDO
PRIMARY EXAMINER**